

Psaki family as they grieve over their loss. Colonel Psaki was a great American. He will be missed and he will be remembered.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Name of requesting entity: Syracuse City Corporation, UT

Address of requesting entity: 1787 South 200 West, Syracuse, Utah 84075

Description of request: \$95,000 for the Davis Economic Technology Cooperative Master Plan, a comprehensive economic development plan for areas within the communities of Syracuse City, West Point City, and Clearfield City, Utah

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1262):

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1262, the "Water Quality Investment Act of 2009."

The integrity of our water infrastructure and fresh water drinking sources is critical to our environment, our health and our economy. Many older systems around the Great Lakes have combined sewer systems, which utilize the same pipes to collect rain water, sewage, and domestic and industrial waste. In periods of heavy rain or snow, these systems can overflow and allow raw sewage to be released into our rivers, streets, and homes. As many as 850 billion gallons of this waste is discharged into rivers and streams each year because of combined sewer system overflows.

While the problems of combined sewer systems are clear, the upfront cost of replacing

entire sewer systems is beyond the reach of many municipalities. Communities that have the largest problems are often also the oldest communities. They may be struggling with declining populations, falling tax revenues, poverty, and crime. Yet if their infrastructure fails, the pollution moves downstream to the next community.

Because our water infrastructure exists out of sight and beneath our feet, the need for investment is not as obvious as with a crumbling bridge or pothole ridden road. As long as the water comes on when the knob is turned, it is easy to believe that our water infrastructure system is working fine. However, this is often far from the truth.

I am fortunate enough to represent a district that has been able to make the investments necessary to address our largest water quality problems. Because my district is the headwaters of the five major watersheds in Southeast Michigan, the communities surrounding my district have also benefited. It is important to remember that water does not stop at political boundaries; problems left untreated flow downstream and impact our neighbors.

The public works professionals in southeast Michigan have done a tremendous job to curb water pollution in the area and continue to make major strides in cleaning our waterways. Lead by the efforts of John McCulloch, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner, Oakland County has eliminated all of their untreated CSO and continues to aggressively attack our SSO and storm water control challenges.

Great progress has been made in Oakland County, but it was not made in a vacuum. The federal Government has been a full partner in this process, contributing over \$300 million in grant funds in Southeast Michigan to water quality control projects over the past 15 years. That federal investment has lead to over \$1 billion dollars in the Rouge Watershed alone, and the water quality of the Rouge River, the Clinton River and the Huron River has improved dramatically because the federal government has been at the table.

Despite all the progress that has been made in my district, there is still more work to be done. That is why it is crucial that we continue to make a strong federal investment in our water infrastructure. H.R. 1262 includes investments in water quality restoration, CSO control, SSO control, and infrastructure repair and I urge my colleagues to support its passage here today.

HONORING THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, FOR 95 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Urban League of Greater Richmond, which has served the communities of Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico, Petersburg, Colonials Heights and Chester, Virginia for 95 years.

One of the oldest of 102 affiliates of the National Urban League, the Urban League of Greater Richmond has enabled many African-Americans and other minorities in the Commonwealth of Virginia to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights.

The Urban League of Greater Richmond has always been committed to assisting those it serves in their professional and personal lives, and to promoting lifelong learning and educational achievement at all levels of education. The Urban League of Greater Richmond provides vital services to the Richmond community. These services include providing access to housing counseling, employment services, a full computer center, credit services, and health services in partnership with the MCV/VCU Hospital Quality Care Unit program.

On Friday, March 20, 2009, the Urban League of Greater Richmond will celebrate its 95th anniversary with music legend Chuck Brown. This event will not only celebrate and honor 95 years of service to the Richmond community, but it will also raise money for college scholarships for underserved students.

I have had the opportunity to work alongside the Urban League of Greater Richmond to better the Richmond community for many years. Whether it's civil rights, crime policy, or welfare reform, the Urban League has always been out there leading the charge and making sure the urban agenda and those issues important to minority communities are a part of the local, state and national conversation.

While today I honor their first 95 years of service of the Urban League of Greater Richmond, I look forward to many, many more years of dedicated service, commitment and passion for the welfare of the people of Greater Richmond. I commend their many volunteers, their hard working staff, their board of directors and their President and CEO Thomas Victory, and I thank the Urban League of Greater Richmond for 95 years of outstanding leadership on issues that directly affect our urban community.